

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR

APPROVED BY ARA:GECHAFIN

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P 272118Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 122848

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL REPEAT TEGUCIGALPA 2156 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO

GUATEMALA MANAGUA SAN JOSE SAN SALVADOR USCINCSO MAY 22

QTE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 2156

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJ: GENERAL LOPEZ NEWS CONFERENCE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2129

1. GENERAL LOPEZ GAVE NEWS CONFERENCE ON MORNING OF  
MAY 22. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

A. HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH COLONEL MELGAR  
HAS NOT SUFFERED ANY CHANGE;

B. THE POWER IS IN THE HANDS OF MILITARY GOVERN-  
MENT. IT WAS RESPONSIBLE BOTH FOR PLACING HIM  
AT THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT AND FOR REMOVING  
HIM;

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C. HIS SITUATION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES IS THAT

OF AN OFFICER ON ACTIVE SERVICE;

D. HE FLATLY DECLARED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO  
BE CHIEF OF STATE OF A MILITARY GOVERNMENT AGAIN;

E. HE WOULD HAVE TO THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY  
BEFORE REENTERING POLITICS. HE WOULD ACCEPT  
BEING HEAD OF STATE ONLY IF HE WERE TO HEAD A  
GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH ADVANCING HONDURAS' INTERESTS;

F. HE IS UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO SAY THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OR UNITED BRANDS OR  
REACTIONARY PARTIES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERTHROWING HIS  
GOVERNMENT;

G. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR  
SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION IS  
ACHIEVED;

H. MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY  
CAUSED PROBLEMS WITHIN THE COUNTRY, BUT THEY HAVE  
ALSO BEEN THE SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE COUNTRY,  
AND CHANGES IN THE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE CARE-  
FULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN;

I. ELI BLACK NEVER OFFERED MONEY AS A BRIBE IN  
HIS OFFICE OR ELSEWHERE;

J. TTE DECREE ON THE BANANA EXPORT TAX WAS AGREED  
UPON BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, NOT ONLY BY  
BENNATON. HE WAS NOT A "SUPER-MINISTER";

K. IF HE WERE MELGAR, HE WOULD SUE UNITED BRANDS;

L. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT MERELY REFLECTS THE  
INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS ABROAD AND IN  
HONDURAS. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION MERELY  
REPEATED WHAT WAS TOLD TO THEM;

M. HE IS PREPARED TO APPEAR IN COURT, BUT  
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UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HE GIVE A POWER  
OF ATTORNEY TO OTHER PEOPLE TO INVESTIGATE HIS  
PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS;

N. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
PLACED ALL THE BLAME ON HIM. IF HE HAD THE  
OPPORTUNITY, HE WOULD GO TO THE UNITED STATES TO  
SEEK THE TRUTH; AND

O. HE HOPES MILITARY WILL CONTINUE SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
REFORMS ENACTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT.  
SOWASH

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## Message Attributes

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